

ABIDE IN THE SAME CALLING

1 Cor 7:17-24

1 Corinthians 7:17 *Distributed*: divided.

As God has assigned you a position in life.

***Called*:** to bid; to call forth

***Walk*:** conduct himself; regulate his affairs.

***... ordain I in all churches*:** not just for church in Corinth.

For all churches around the world.

God can use you no matter what your station of life is...

Main purpose of gospel is inward.

To revolutionize hearts.

When hearts are changed, society is influenced.

Preach the Gospel to lost, first!

1 Corinthians 7:17 Be faithful in situation we were in when God called us.

And so ordain I ... my rule for all churches around the world.

***Called*:** You had nothing to do with position of life.

***...so let him walk*.** Blossom for God where you are!

1 Corinthians 7:18 Nothing wrong with past if born into Jewish race and now saved.

Not asked to renounce past.

If circumcised, nothing unspiritual with that.

If uncircumcised before salvation, don't have to become circumcised.

Circumcision a source of embarrassment to some Jewish men.

epispatics – to draw over or to pull towards.

Some Jewish men who came to Christ thought would be good to have surgery performed in order to demonstrate break from Judaism.

1 Corinthians 7:19 It is of no value to you, spiritually.

Judaizers in Galatia. Galatians 5:6

...but the keeping of the commandments of God

What really matters to God is your commitment to obedience.

Matter of heart. 1 John 2:3

It is not all about circumcision!

How recognize mature believer?

By relationship to Word of God. 1 John 2:5

Stott: *True love for God is expressed not in sentimental language or mystical experience but in moral obedience.*

John 14:15 *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

Isaiah 66:2 ... *and trembleth at my word.*

1 Corinthians 7:20-21

More than 50% of Roman Empire composed of slaves.

Large percentage of Christians in Corinth came from the slave class.

Athens, at height had 20,000 freemen and 400,000 slaves.

Slave often more educated or skilled ...than average freeman.

care not for it: don't worry about it.

use it rather. if get an opportunity to be free, go for it.

No disgrace to cause of Christ if a slave.

Be content

use it rather: Use position as a means to bring glory to God.

Ephesians 6:5-8; 1 Timothy 6:1; Titus 2:9; 1 Peter 2:18

Paul learned to effectively serve God in jail as well as out of jail.

Philippians 4:11 *I have learned:* I have come to the place where I understand some things. .

Hend: *My conversion-experience, and also my subsequent trials for the sake of Christ and his gospel, have taught me a lesson. The path which I traveled led me ever closer to Christ, to his love, and to his power, yes to Christ and contentment in him. That very contentment is riches to me.*

In whatsoever state I am: whether my needs are being met or not.

Therewith to be content: satisfied, at peace, not to worry, not to fret.

Contentedness: A mind that calmly bows to the will of God in every situation of life.

Barnes: *A contented mind is an invaluable blessing, and is one of the fruits of religion in the soul. It arises from the belief that God is right in all his ways...one of the secrets of happiness is to have a mind satisfied with all the allotments of Providence.*

One's outward situation in life matters very little when it comes to experiencing the blessing and power of God.

1 Corinthians 7:22 If a slave and saved – free in Christ.

If a freeman and saved – bond-slave of Christ.

We are free in Christ to be his servants.

As a believer always experience inward freedom that Christ gives.

1 Corinthians 7:22 ...*likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant.*

2 types of slave: 1. Not by will 2. By free will

If slave given freedom--under no obligation to remain.

Times when slave choose to remain under master--have ear pierced

Let people know --slave for life

Chose to be bond-slave.

Paul saying, I am His servant, His bond-slave by choice.

Marks of bond-slave?

Implicit obedience and subjection to will of his master.

Concerned with feelings and opinions of master, Lord Jesus Christ.

Purpose not to make himself look good but his master.

Number one quality God looks for in spiritual leadership: Servanthood!

1 Corinthians 7:22 Your external status as freemen doesn't mean you can do anything you want to do.

Not free to do your own thing.

Free, in Christ, to serve and obey commandments of God.

1 Corinthians 7:23

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ... bought with a price: therefore glorify God

Moment I received Jesus Christ --property of God. 1 Peter 1:18-19

I owed a debt I could not pay,

He paid a debt He did not owe,

I needed someone to wash my sins away.

1 Corinthians 7:23 *be not ye the servants of men.*

Don't become moral and spiritual slaves of people.

Grom: *Divine obligations supersede human demands*

Get focus off your circumstances

1 Corinthians 7:24 No matter what your status in life is

Abide: stay, continue, dwell, endure, be faithful to God,

Walk with God.

SO WHAT?

v.17: God can use you no matter who your are, where you are...

vv.18-21 Your outward status has very little significance to God

What matters to God is your commitment to obeying His Word.

v.22: We are free in Christ

v.23: Purchased by blood of Christ..

v.23: Be focused on Christ. Not circumstances.

v.24... therein abide with God.